

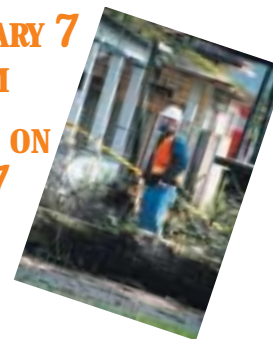


# Eugene Outdoors!

A publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

[www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks)

**FEBRUARY 7  
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**Spring  
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## HENDRICKS PARK: A BRIDGE FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

A stroll through the new native plant garden at Hendricks Park with park gardener Ginny Alfrend and volunteer Jerry Blakely reveals all kinds of treasures. Alfrend seems to know every square inch of ground as she identifies tiny buds of camas, iris, lupine, and delphinium peeking through the surface of the earth, the beginnings of a native plant garden at Hendricks.

The vision of Hendricks Park began in 1906 when the Hendricks and Wilkins pioneer families shared a picnic together on a hill overlooking Eugene in what is now Hendricks Park. As they marveled at the panoramic view from that open savanna—a few 100-year-old Douglas firs and an outcropping of **native** oaks amidst a burgeoning forest, they were struck by the need to preserve this stunning resource for generations to come. Shortly after this outing, Thomas and Martha Hendricks purchased 47 acres of land and donated it to the City, and Francis M. Wilkins, Eugene mayor at the time, persuaded the City to buy 31 adjoining acres. With this inspired act, Eugene's first park was established.

Since then, Hendricks Park has been protected from burning, grazing, and logging and lovingly tended and appreciated by dedicated staff, volunteers and community members. In 1951, the Eugene

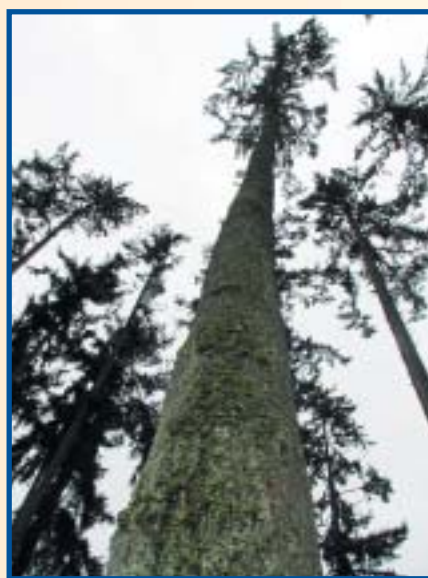
Men's Camellia and Rhododendron Society donated months of back-breaking labor and thousands of plants to create the park's internationally renowned rhododendron garden. As the years went by, the park's horticulturists carefully preserved the original plants and selectively added new varieties. The 5,000 specimens in the 12-acre garden include more than 2,000 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas, some of which are found nowhere else. This historic collection is a major attraction for local residents, out-of-town guests and garden enthusiasts from around the world.

Over the years, Hendricks Park has continued to benefit from a long history of volunteer involvement and community support. Wilkins served on the parks board in Eugene since Hendricks Parks was founded. In 1938, a shelter was built at Hendricks Park and dedicated to Wilkins on his 90<sup>th</sup> birth-

day. Successive generations of the Hendricks and Wilkins families have continued to generously support the park.

Many other hands have helped nurture the park. Head gardener Michael Robert credits an exceptionally stable park staff and literally thousands of volunteers, many of them young people. The park recruits volunteers regularly from groups such as Northwest Youth Corps, Looking Glass and several programs from the University of Oregon. "I have so much optimism when I see these young people identify 20 native plants. They have such an appreciation for the natural world," says Robert.

In March of this year, a group of students from the University of Oregon's High School Equivalency Program (HEP) were recognized for their work removing English ivy and other invasive vegetation while protecting the delicate native plants on the forest floor. This group of volunteers, all from migrant or seasonal farm worker backgrounds, donated over 300



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# A LETTER FROM PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DIVISION MANAGER

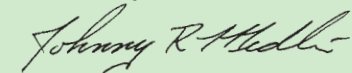
Welcome to the first edition of **Eugene Outdoors!** We hope you find the articles in this issue both entertaining and informative. The intent of this semiannual publication is to highlight the many exciting and unique recreational and educational opportunities in Eugene's parks and open space.

In this issue, you will find articles about the west Eugene wetlands, the February 7 windstorm, Eugene's first park, new parks, and other projects and activities. In these articles, you will see our commitment to preserving and enhancing Eugene's parks, open waterways and wetlands for future generations. You will also find out about ways you can become involved in shaping that future by providing input on parks and open space projects still in the planning, development and construction phases. The issue also includes information about how the City's urban forestry program manages the many trees in Eugene's parks, streets, waterways, and natural areas—information you may find useful in the care of your own trees.

The Parks and Open Space Division of Public Works is responsible for planning, developing, and maintaining Eugene's rivers, streams, wetlands, parks, trails, and recreational facilities. Here are some of the ways we work to create a livable and green community:

- Natural resource staff monitor, maintain and restore Amazon Creek and other waterways as well as woodlands, meadows and hiking trails.
- Planning staff design parks, such as the new youth sports parks at Churchill, Cal Young, and Sheldon high schools, and help acquire land for future parks and open space, such as the expansion of the Ridgeline Trail and other projects funded by the 1998 parks and open space bond measure.
- Urban forestry staff plant and care for City trees through programs such as the volunteer street tree planting program, NeighborWoods.
- City gardeners care for Owen Rose Garden and Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden.
- Parks maintenance staff maintain turf and sports fields, playgrounds and landscaping throughout the city to keep Eugene's parks and open space safe, functional and attractive.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  


Johnny Medlin  
Parks and Open Space Division Manager  
[johnny.r.medlin@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:johnny.r.medlin@ci.eugene.or.us)



For information about specific Parks and Open Space areas, call **682-4800** or contact:

- |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tim Rhay, <b>Maintenance</b><br><a href="mailto:tim.r.rhay@ci.eugene.or.us">tim.r.rhay@ci.eugene.or.us</a>          | Mark Snyder, <b>Urban Forestry</b><br><a href="mailto:mark.r.snyder@ci.eugene.or.us">mark.r.snyder@ci.eugene.or.us</a>                |
| Andrea Riner, <b>Planning</b><br><a href="mailto:andrea.g.riner@ci.eugene.or.us">andrea.g.riner@ci.eugene.or.us</a> | Scott Duckett, <b>Wetlands and Open Waterways</b><br><a href="mailto:scott.duckett@ci.eugene.or.us">scott.duckett@ci.eugene.or.us</a> |

# A NEW LOOK



EUGENE  
Parks and  
Open Space

When the Parks and Open Space Division was formed almost a year ago, one of the key goals was to improve the “visibility” of the services we offer to the community. In that spirit, this spring the division developed a visual identity to capture the essence of Eugene's parks and open space. We wanted

the new logo to incorporate a variety of attributes: warm, friendly, accessible, caring, natural, alive, reliable, progressive, unique, professional, and hardworking. We also sought to convey our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for Eugene residents by providing rich experiences in Eugene's parks and open space.

Our new logo debuts in this newsletter. It reflects new life, plants and other growing things, and the exuberance and playfulness of being in parks and open space. Over time you'll see it on our uniforms, vehicles and outreach materials.

We hope you'll continue to explore and enjoy Eugene's parks and open space, and, like the logo, jump for joy and reach for the sun.

**Eugene Outdoors!** is published semiannually by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to share information about Eugene's parks and open space and encourage the community to enjoy these natural and recreational areas. Let us know what you think about Eugene's parks and open space. Contact us by phone, mail, e-mail, or through the web:

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[www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks)

Therese Picado, *Editor*  
Kim Mast, *Graphic Designer*

## GLOSSARY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE TERMS *All glossary words appear in this issue in blue bold.*

**copse:** a thicket

**habitat:** the area in which an animal, plant, or microorganism lives and finds the nutrients, water, sunlight, shelter, living space, and other essentials it needs to survive. Habitat loss, which includes the destruction, degradation, and fragmentation of habitats, is the primary cause of biodiversity loss.

**hatracking or topping:** the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

**invasive species:** species, usually introduced, which continue to reproduce and spread naturally into an area and may

out-compete the native species for food or other natural resources. Often invasive species displace native species and create ecosystems that are less diverse, disrupting the natural ecology of the area.

**native species:** a species that occurs naturally in an area or habitat. Also called indigenous species.

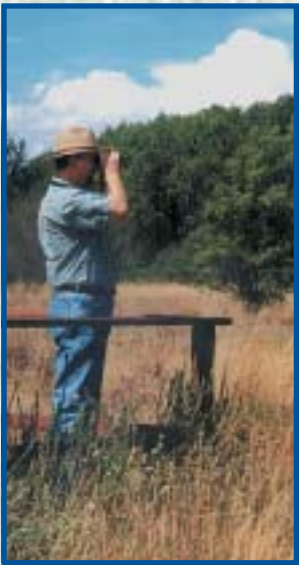
**restore:** the repair of ecological damage to an ecosystem so that it is close to the natural condition prior to a disturbance and can function as a normal self-regulating system. This is done by modifying conditions responsible for the loss or change, such as chemical cleanups, revegetation, and the reintroduction of native species.

**watershed:** surface and subsurface drainage area that contributes water to a lake, river or other body of water.

**wet prairie:** a unique type of wetland which once covered vast areas of the Willamette Valley floor. This term is used to describe a plant community dominated by tufted hairgrass, *Deschampsia cespitosa*. Wet prairie is typically saturated or slightly flooded in the winter, but is dry in the summer and early fall.

**wetland:** areas that are covered by water or have water-logged soils for long periods during the growing season. Wetlands such as swamps and marshes are often obvious, but some wetlands are not easily recognized, often because they are dry during part of the year or they just don't look very wet from the roadside.





# A GUIDED TOUR OF THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

By STEVE GORDON

Sandwiched between Earth Week in April and Amazon Appreciation Day in June is American Wetlands Month in May, a perfect time to take a walk through the **wetlands** in west Eugene. Take a solitary walk or bring family or friends on an adventure in the largest open space system in the city. Access the wetlands by bike by traveling along Fern Ridge bike path along Amazon Creek. Beautiful wild flowers, many birds, and unique scenery await your visit.

Hook up with Fern Ridge path near the rear fairgrounds entrance at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Friendly Street or any point westward. As you travel west, between Garfield Street and Oak Patch Road, you can see many sections of Amazon Creek that were deepened and straightened as part of a flood-control project in the 1950s and 1960s. You will recognize these areas by their steep banks and small levees or dikes to contain floodwaters on each side. In this stretch of the creek, you will also notice that residential, commercial and industrial developments sometimes crowd the banks of the creek. At Oak Patch Road and in the area west of Bailey Hill Road, you can see examples of City restoration projects to widen the stream and allow wetland wildlife to repopulate the area. Without the widening projects of the past few

years, the banks would have to be kept bare to handle flood flows during big storms. Now, a greener, softer Amazon Creek can better trap sediments, improve water quality, and provide a better **habitat** for plants and animals. In the older enhanced areas of the creek, willows and other wetland plants are beginning to flourish. Birds are also returning to the creek. Look and listen for downy woodpeckers, red-winged blackbirds, and more songbirds, such as song sparrow, American goldfinch, black-capped chickadee, and common yellowthroat (a warbler).

About one-quarter mile west of Bertelsen Road, you will find **restored** wetlands north of the path. Here the City has restored **wet prairie** and seasonal wetland ponds. In May, the shallow ponds may still hold enough water to attract a few mallards, Canada geese and other waterfowl. Watch for barn and violet-green swallows swooping over the creek catching insects. If you are lucky, you may see a belted kingfisher, great blue heron, or the smaller green heron fishing along the creek. As you pass under the Beltline and enter Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property,

you will see a boardwalk and native wet prairie north of the path. Take a side trip and see the tall tufted hairgrass clumps that are typical of the Willamette Valley wet prairies. You will see scorched patches along the boardwalk where experimental

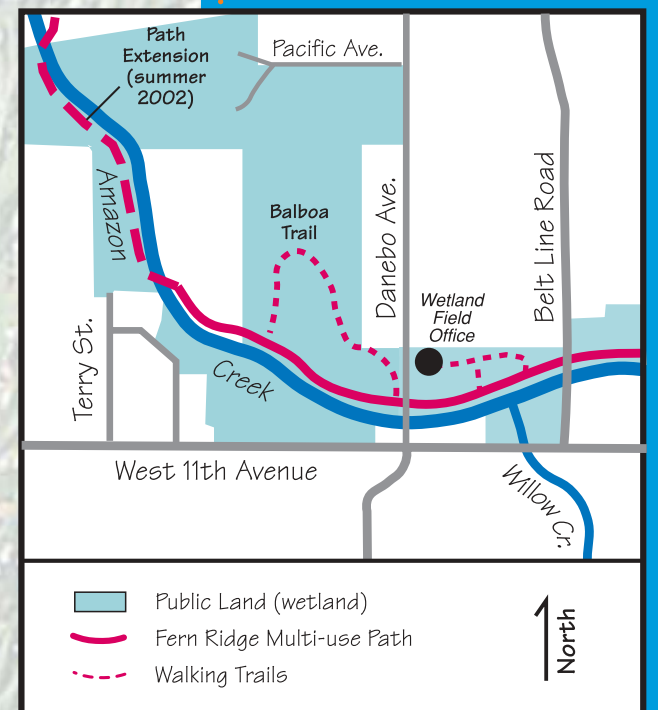
burns have been conducted to test the effects of controlled burning on prairie plants. Look for the blue-topped camas flowers scattered among the tall grasses. You will find wild rose and small groves of Oregon

ash growing next to the boardwalk. The Oregon ash is very tolerant of wet conditions. The colored flags you see in the wetlands mark experimental plots or plots used to routinely test the success of replanting projects. Seeds from almost 100 wetland plants are collected each year for wetland restoration efforts.

Just west of Danebo Avenue, look for a new BLM trail that leads out into the wet prairie. This short loop has a gravel surface and boardwalks where the path crosses the wettest areas. The loop will take you back to the Fern Ridge path just downstream along Amazon Creek. This site was once an airfield and dragstrip. This trail will take you through prairie and brushy habitats

and through more ash **copses**. Look for prairie birds, such as northern harrier, American kestrel, red-tailed hawk, and western meadowlark. In the brush you may find Bewick's wren and spotted towhee. Look at the fir trees at the cemetery east of Danebo and you will see a great blue heron nesting colony, or heronry. In May, the adults will be bringing food to young in the nest. Back along the Fern Ridge path, look for killdeer along the shores. And check the willow for signs of busy beavers gnawing on tender stems. You may see a nutria, a small beaver-like animal, grazing on grass along the banks of the creek.

The trail ends at Terry Street. Work will begin to extend the path two miles further west this summer. By this time next year, you should be able to extend your trip to Greenhill Road.



Steve Gordon is a planner for Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) and has worked on the west Eugene wetlands project since its inception in 1987. He participates in an interagency, interdepartmental team called the Wetheads. This team, comprised of representatives from BLM, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, LCOG, and the City, collaboratively coordinates the implementation of the West Eugene Wetlands Plan.





## MARTIN LUTHER KING PARK PLAYGROUND TO BE RENOVATED

This spring, Martin Luther King Park playground will be renovated. Formerly Grant Park, this small neighborhood park on Grant Street between West 9<sup>th</sup> Place and West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue was last renovated in the early 1980s when it was renamed to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The old climbing pillars have already been removed, and the rest of the playground equipment will be removed when reconstruction begins. The existing sand surface will be excavated and replaced with engineered wood chips – a safe, wheelchair-accessible surface. In addition, a new underground drainage system will be installed to prevent standing water and help make the surface more usable throughout the year, especially during Eugene's rainy season. Children will enjoy a new T-swing and composite structure that includes a spiral slide, a tot slide, various climbing components, and talk tubes.

Both the new surface and playground equipment meet the current safety standards developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials as well as the safety guidelines published by the Consumer Products Safety Commission. Parks staff encourage neighbors to visit the park this summer and enjoy all the new equipment and features.



## SCOBERT PARK PLAYGROUND TO GET A FACELIFT

In the next month, the sand in Scobert Park playground will be replaced with a fully rubberized safety surface. This will be the first playground in the City's park system to be equipped throughout with a resilient, poured-in-place, safety surface. Three years ago, a similar material was installed under and around the merry-go-round in University Park. The surfacing has proven to be a cost-effective, low-maintenance and safe alternative to materials traditionally used in playgrounds such as sand, engineered wood chips, wood shavings, and pea gravel. It is wheelchair accessible and meets both the American Society for Testing and Materials' safety standards and the Consumer Products Safety Commission's safety guidelines.

The surfacing, made of recycled rubber from tires, will be purchased from SpectraTurf, which has sold and installed over two million square feet of this material throughout the United States since 1994. Parks staff will work alongside a certified installer from SpectraTurf to install the surfacing. Parks staff invite neighbors to visit the park this summer and experience the new surface.

## VISUALIZE THE FUTURE FOR EUGENE'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The City will soon be updating its park, recreation and open space comprehensive plan. The new plan will guide how parks and open space will be acquired and developed and what recreational services will be provided for the next 20 years. City staff plan to solicit the community's help in crafting this vision. By facilitating an open, participatory process, they hope to find out what the community sees as its most important goals for providing opportunities for play, relaxation, natural resource protection, active recreation, environmental education, and more.

Check local papers, this newsletter, or the parks website at [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks) for neighborhood meetings, community forums, and other events related to this effort.



## CREATE A LIVING MEMORIAL IN HAYS MEMORIAL TREE GARDEN

Located immediately north of Cuthbert Amphitheater in Alton Baker Park, the Hays Memorial Tree Garden provides a unique opportunity for people to establish a living memorial in the heart of one of Eugene's premiere parks. Over the past three years, 26 trees have been planted and memorial plaques with personalized messages to loved ones placed throughout the garden.

In addition to giving residents the opportunity to create a living memorial, the tree garden was created to display a wide variety of trees that grow in Eugene's climate. There are trees that bloom in the spring and summer as well as deciduous trees that display brilliant fall colors.

The first phase of the garden included the central plaza, walkways and planting sites. Over this past winter, parks crews installed a new irrigation system and concrete pathway border and are currently preparing the ground for a new grass seeding.



The tree garden's continued growth is made possible by donations from local citizens. Community members can contribute to this project by purchasing memorial trees, benches or slate leaf tiles, creating a living memorial to loved ones in this lovely setting. Opportunities also exist to fund major projects such as main path seating areas, flowering tree colonnades, an entry plaza center, and pedestrian footbridges. To ensure the area is carefully maintained, a portion of all donations is placed in a permanent maintenance trust fund to be used exclusively for the tree garden.

A sign at the entry plaza provides information about the project and how the public can get involved.



# TAKE ME OUT TO THE PARK

## NEW PARK OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

Skyview Park is a new, three-acre neighborhood park located in the south hills between the end of Hawkins Lane and Timberline Drive. When it's completed this summer, visitors can walk along the fully accessible path winding through the park's hilly terrain and enjoy unobstructed views of Eugene's south hills, several large Oregon white oak trees and two small stands of native forest. In addition, a boardwalk will lead visitors through a half-acre **wetland**. After exploring these natural areas, young visitors can find further diversion on a play field and playground. The park is scheduled to be open for visitors by mid-summer.



## RETREAT TO THIS IDYLIC SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

In fall 2001, Shadow Wood Park was unveiled. This small, one-acre park is nestled in a hillside setting and has an open field, swingset, picnic table, tiled hopscotch court, and an abundance of trees.

The success of this project was due, in part, to area residents. They conducted a neighborhood survey, mobilized the community and raised funds. The results: a beautiful park and welcome addition to the neighborhood.



## SKATERS HELP DESIGN NEW SKATEPARK IN BETHEL

Eugene skaters came out in force last November to voice their opinions about a proposed skatepark in Bethel. Based on their input, City staff decided to hire a company that specializes in both the design and construction of skateparks. The specific company will be selected this spring, and another community meeting will be held to get more specific input on the design of the skatepark. The park will be located at Bethel Community Park, just south of Meadow View

School on Legacy Street. Construction is expected to be completed late this year. For more information, contact Carolyn Weiss at **682-4914**.

## HENDRICKS CONTINUED

hours collectively to the "Gaining Ground" ivy removal project at Hendricks Park.

According to Robert, the park is surrounded by people who love it, many of whom visit it every day and take an active role in its preservation. Two such couples, who are long-time Hendricks Park citizen advisors, walk through the park every morning at 9 a.m. "I really appreciate seeing them every day; they're like extended family," says Robert, who occasionally joins them on their walk to discuss various aspects of the park's management.

As the park has matured, new challenges in its stewardship have surfaced. Robert says that the midlife of a forest is often a vulnerable stage in its development. Two years ago the Eugene City Council endorsed the Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan to address these needs. Developed with the help of ecosystem experts, forest biologists and local citizens, the innovative plan outlines a long-term vision for Hendricks Park by creating an inventory of the park's natural resources, identifying activities that adversely affect these resources, and recommending management goals and strategies. The plan currently serves as a prototype for managing other parks in Eugene and has the potential of being implemented in cities across the nation.

One of the specific recommendations from the management plan was the creation of a garden that showcased the variety and horticultural uses of plants native to the Willamette Valley. Last year, as Mary Rear Blakely was dying of cancer, she and her husband Jerry Blakely decided to help fund a native plant garden as a living memorial. The garden, situated near the F.M. Wilkins picnic shelter, was recently dedicated. It will form a bridge between the past and recent history of Hendricks Park—from the Wilkins and Hendricks families to the Blakely's, from the Rhododendron Garden to Hendricks Park's native forest.

Eugene citizens are invited to participate in this long tradition of public involvement. Last year the Friends of Hendricks Park, a nonprofit group dedicated to implementing the forest management plan, was created. The group helps promote the park by raising awareness about Hendricks Park as an important local, state and regional asset; promoting broad-based community support for the park; funding park projects; and restoring and preserving the park's natural resources. See the contact information below to join the effort.

Above all, Robert invites people to visit and enjoy the park. Without leaving the city, visitors can hear the distinct call of a screech owl or sharp hammer of a pileated woodpecker, see the sun pierce through the forest canopy, or enjoy the beauty of brilliant rhododendrons, azaleas, and even camas just taking root in the new native plant garden. "In the midst of the city, there is a mature forest and a garden in bloom," says Robert.

## HELP HENDRICKS PARK BLOOM AND GROW

For more information about the Native Plant Garden, contact:  
Jerry Blakely, **343-3728**, [JerryBlakely@cs.com](mailto:JerryBlakely@cs.com)

To contribute to the Native Plant Garden, make checks payable and mail to:  
Oregon Community Foundation  
401 East 10th Avenue, Suite 240  
Eugene, Oregon 97401  
**431-7099**

To join or donate to the Friends of Hendricks Park, contact:  
Friends of Hendricks Park, **607-4066**  
[info@friendsofhendrickspark.org](mailto:info@friendsofhendrickspark.org)  
[www.friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.org)

For more information about volunteer opportunities, wildflower and rhododendron garden tours, and the Forest Management Plan, visit Hendricks Park's webpage at [www.ci.eugene.or.us/PW/parks/hendricks](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/PW/parks/hendricks) or call **682-5324**.



## DOGS WILL SOON HAVE SPACE TO ROAM AT ALTON BAKER PARK

Patrons of off-leash dog parks in Eugene have shown keen interest in the construction and development of the area's newest off-leash dog park at Alton Baker Park. A volunteer advisory group was formed and has been working with City staff on addressing dog park issues and giving input into the design of the park. Volunteer Kathie Brenneman is very enthusiastic about the opportunity the park will provide dogs and their owners to socialize. "It's an excellent venue for dog owners to communicate and network with each other and for creating happy, friendly dogs," she says. Features such as benches and pedestrian nodes, or gathering places where trails or paths intersect, will promote this interaction.



Other innovative features include a dog washdown station, dog waste bag dispensers, and a pasture rotation system in which one half of an area is closed to allow the grass to regenerate faster.

On a foggy Saturday morning in February, members of the volunteer advisory group and other community members joined City staff in a work party at the site. In less than three hours, 40 volunteers constructed a walking path 1200 feet long by six feet wide. This feat was accomplished by raking and grading 110 cubic yards of gravel.

To visit the new dog park, travel on Centennial Boulevard to Leo Harris Parkway behind Autzen Stadium and park in lot eight. Proceed west over the footbridge. The dog park is located on the west side of the path.

For more information about the project or to make a contribution, contact Volunteers In Parks Coordinator Chris Girard at **682-4845**, Carrie Peterson, parks program specialist, at **682-4907**, or community liaison Kathie Brenneman at **485-5275**.

## COMMUNITY GROUP PLANS GAZEBO IN OWEN ROSE GARDEN

The Eugene Delta Rotarians recently launched a campaign to raise funds to build a gazebo in Owen Rose Garden. The group adopted the rose garden as a community service project in 1999.

In partnership with the City of Eugene, the group has accomplished several projects in the past couple of years, including decorating the garden with trellises, rose bed borders and just last year a large pergola to adorn the walkway with climbing roses.

According to the Owen Rose Garden master plan, the gazebo will be situated in the heart of the rose garden and accessible to wheelchair users. A new concrete and brick walkway will lead visitors through the rose-covered pergola to the new gazebo. The gazebo will provide visitors a comfortable place to sit and enjoy the garden as well as a garden setting for outdoor events, such as weddings.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$62,000. All funds raised by the community will be matched by the City. A minimum of \$20,000 in donations is needed before the gazebo can be ordered. Community members are encouraged to support this effort by purchasing bricks, tiles, gazebo planters, or benches – ranging in price from \$100 to \$1,500 – or by becoming a legacy donor by donating \$5,000 or more.

"We are very committed to beautifying the rose garden for all the residents of Eugene to enjoy for years to come," says Paul Peschiera, member of the Eugene Delta Rotarians and coordinator of the gazebo campaign.

For more information about this project or to make a contribution, contact Paul Peschiera, Eugene Delta Rotarian, at **684-8454**, or John Weber, parks planner, at **682-4908**, or visit [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/owen](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/owen).



## STREAM TEAM VOLUNTEERS TEND TO LOCAL WATERWAYS

Eugene Stream Team wishes to thank all the hundreds of volunteers who helped improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in our city's watersheds this past season. For those of you who are curious about Stream Team, here's some frequently asked questions:

**What do Stream Team Volunteers do?** Stencil storm drains on neighborhood streets with "Dump no Waste—Drains to Streams" message. Salvage **native** plants from sites scheduled for development.

Learn about natural areas within the city and how to preserve and restore them. Collect seeds from native plants in the summer. Propagate, weed and



*Seventy-two Stream Team volunteers planted native trees and shrubs on the banks of the Willamette River for a salmon habitat restoration project in Alton Baker Park.*

grow plants at the native plant nursery. Adopt local wetlands and waterways for continued monitoring and improvement. Lead tours of local **wetlands** and natural areas for school groups and others. Lend a hand in the office and tool shed.

For upcoming volunteer opportunities, see the Calendar of Events on page 8.

**Who are Stream Team Volunteers?** They come from nearly every neighborhood, profession and age group.

**Why do people volunteer with Stream Team?** They are willing to give their time to improve the quality of life for a wide spectrum of living creatures because they care about their community. They also enjoy meeting like-minded people; sharing their knowledge with others, especially children; and becoming better stewards of their **watershed**.

**How do I sign-up?** For more information, contact Lorna Baldwin at **682-4850** or [lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us).

### EUGENE STREAM TEAM THANKS:

Sue Mandeville, Djibo Zanot, Rick Ahrens, Nancy Schafer, Jeff Ray, Dan Gleason, Joe Russin, Hilary Dearborn, Deirdre Jackson, Michael Whereley, Chelsea Gibbons, Will Peters, Peter Bungum, Bill Brigmon, Lynda Christiansen, Andy Jobanek, Darin Henry, Ken Persinger, the Rachel Carson Program, Eugene Bible College, Eugene Metro Rotary, and Willamette High School. Thanks also to Track Town Pizza, Hometown Buffet and Palace Bakery for feeding the volunteers!

## JUNE 1 IS THE 11TH ANNUAL AMAZON APPRECIATION DAY

Stream Team volunteers work on projects to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in waterways throughout the city.

Join us for this educational and hands-on event. For more information, call **682-4850**.



# STORM STATISTICS

On February 7, 2002, 70-plus-mile-per-hour winds tore through the Willamette Valley. Though the most severe winds lasted only less than an hour, it wreaked considerable damage in Eugene and communities as far away as North Bend. Parks and Open Space crews joined other City and EWEB workers in responding to the crisis. Crews worked around the clock and under hazardous conditions to remove trees from power lines and clean debris from streets, sidewalks, parks, and bike paths around the city. Field crews were just getting off shift when the storm hit. As the severity of the storm became apparent, they immediately turned around to work another shift well into the night as other crews came in early to relieve them. By the end of the day after the storm, most of the more dangerous situations had been dealt with and even bike paths had been 90 percent cleared.

The residents of Eugene responded with overwhelmingly positive feedback about how quickly and efficiently City crews responded to this crisis. One resident had this to say:

"I ran on Friday, February 8, expecting to find my way blocked by fallen trees and other debris. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the paved trails on both sides of the river were cleared and accessible for walkers, cyclists and runners! We are very impressed with Eugene's commitment to the recreational opportunities afforded by the rivers and parks, and the City's priorities to restore those opportunities as quickly as possible."

Though the main thoroughways and paths throughout the city were remarkably restored within a 24-hour period, crews are still cleaning up debris and dealing with potentially dangerous trees and limbs in parks and other areas around the city.

Literally thousands of trees around the city were lost in the storm. Close to 800 City trees were downed, including 30 trees at the airport, 80 at the wastewater treatment plant, over 130 street trees, and 490 trees in parks. Here are some of the numbers derived from the over 400 reports Public Works received of trees or limbs blocking the street:

- 236 trees were called in as "tree is down." 135 uprooted completely, whereas 101 broke off at the trunk. About half the uprooted trees were private trees. Sixty percent of the trees broken at the trunk were street trees. Sixty-two major limb failures were reported (22 from private trees).
- Property damage reported to Public Works included 34 trees impacting houses. Only half of this property damage was caused by public trees. Six City trees and four private trees fell on vehicles. Most of the 55 reports of "other" property damage, such as damaged fences, involved private trees (67 percent).
- Most of the storm damage happened in the South Hills, College Hill, Whiteaker, and other parts of Ward 7 up River Road and Northwest Expressway. Uprooted tree reports were most frequent in the South Hills, College Hill and southwest Eugene on the lee side of the south hills. Most reports of tree trunks breaking came from College Hill and Whiteaker, whereas the neighborhoods of College Hill, Laurel Hill and Whiteaker had the most cases of major limb failure.
- The greatest number of property damage reports called in to Public Works was found in the neighborhoods mentioned above whereas the Willagillespie, Coburg and Bethel areas sustained the least amount of serious damage from the storm. The most serious damage seemed to occur as the storm winds uprooted firs in the south hills and then moved north and impacted the larger, older trees in the downtown area. By the time the storm reached more northerly areas, the winds had probably diminished in intensity.

# AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR URBAN FORESTER . . .

As this first newsletter goes to print, I find myself hard-pressed to find time to write this column. It's a busy time of year anyway (Spring always sneaks up on me!), and catching up from the February 7 windstorm interruption has kept me

Eugene Urban Forester Mark Snyder's first day on the job in February 1999 found him at Hendricks Park dealing with 145-foot Douglas fir that had fallen onto a neighbor's roof because of 50-mile-per-hour winds. Three years later, to the day, the February 7, 2002 windstorm downed trees all over the city with its winds of over 70 miles per hour.



hopping the last several weeks. But when I remember how my shoulder ached for days after pounding stakes for trees I helped the Eugene Tree Foundation (ETF) plant on Crescent Avenue, I don't have any problem deciding what the most important thing is that I've done this spring.

What's the most important thing you've done this spring? The taxes? Did you finally clean the garage? Did you plant a tree? If you lost a street tree in the February 7 storm, it's not

too early to think about reforesting your neighborhood by ordering your free street tree for next year. Call Troy Kreger, NeighborWoods coordinator, at **682-4831**, to place your order.

So why did so many trees get blown down, and how can you make sure you're safe? This has been the most frequently asked question since the February 7 windstorm. The obvious answer is that near hurricane-force winds toppled large evergreen trees in rain-saturated soils. A common misconception is that those trees that fell had shallow roots. All trees have shallow roots—95% of the root system of all trees can be found in the top 18-24 inches of soil. The problem was that almost all the uprooted trees I saw had rotten roots. That's why they couldn't withstand the high winds.

## SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE SURE YOU AREN'T IN DANGER?

- Avoid damaging the roots of your trees by excavating or filling. Roots need oxygen and water—even 4 to 6 inches of fill can suffocate a tree. Both practices can cause decay in your tree's roots. Some trees native to the Willamette valley are sensitive to too much irrigation in the summer, and root rot gets started that way as well.
- Don't top your tree! Some people mistakenly think that **hatracking** a normal tree makes it safer. Just the opposite! Topping leads to decayed wood that tries to support vigorous sprout growth, resulting in a greater likelihood that the new branches will break.
- Call an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)-certified arborist to inspect and prune your trees on a regular basis (check the yellow pages). If the tree is a City street tree, call 682-4800 to have a certified arborist on staff answer your questions about the tree's condition.

Finally, though it's too late to plant a tree this year, don't be afraid of sore shoulders or aching backs next winter. Start planning now for a tree, and get those shoulders and backs in shape by mulching, watering and weeding your trees this summer.

For more information about Eugene's trees, visit the City's Urban Forestry website at [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/urbforest](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/urbforest).





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## May 5

*Wildflower tour*  
F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park,  
11 a.m., **682-5324**

*Rhododendron garden tour*  
F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park,  
1 p.m., **682-5324**

## May 10

*West Eugene wetlands bird walk and history  
of West Eugene Wetlands Plan*  
BLM wetland office, 721 S. Danebo,  
8-11 a.m.

## May 11

*Native Plant Nursery volunteer opportunity*  
1-4 p.m., **682-4850**

*Stream Team/Audubon Trail Guide training,*  
9 a.m. - noon, **682-4850**

*Rhododendron pruning workshop*  
F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park  
10 a.m.-noon, **682-5324**

*Willow Creek work party*  
W. 18th Ave., just west of Bertelsen  
9:30 a.m.-noon, **682-4927**

## May 12

*Rhododendron garden tour*  
F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park  
1 p.m., **682-5324**

## May 14

*Rhododendron pruning workshop*  
F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park,  
1-3 p.m., sponsored by Lane County  
Extension Service, **682-5324**

## May 15

*Native Plant Nursery volunteer opportunity*  
9-11:30 a.m., **682-4850**

## May 16

*Eugene Public Works Day*, free exhibits  
showcasing transportation, mainte-  
nance, parks and open space, airport,  
and wastewater treatment plant, 1820  
Roosevelt, Eugene, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**682-4800.**

## May 19

*Rhododendron garden tour*  
F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park,  
1 p.m., **682-5324**

*Tour of west Eugene wetlands*  
sponsored by Eugene Stream Team  
and Audubon. Free and open to the  
public. Limited registration. **682-4850**

## May 22

*Rivers to Ridges: A Community Workshop on  
Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open  
Space*, Willamalane Senior Adult  
Activity Center, 215 West C Street,  
Springfield, 4:30-7 p.m., **682-4122.**

## May 25

*Native Plant Nursery volunteer opportunity*  
1-4 p.m., **682-4850**

## June 1

*Amazon Appreciation Day*  
Stream Team groups throughout the  
city work on projects. Educational and  
hands-on event. Sponsored by Stream  
Team and KZEL/KNRQ. **682-4850**

*Petersen Barn 25th Anniversary, We are  
Bethel Celebration*  
Free music, food, family fun  
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

## June 5

*Native Plant Nursery volunteer opportunity*  
9-11:30 a.m., **682-4850**

## June 7

*The Big Help Day of Caring*, volunteers  
pick-up litter and plant flowers and  
vegetables, Westmoreland Park, 3-5  
p.m., **345-9939.**

## June 8

*Annual River Road Neighbors Willamette  
River Clean-up*, Rasor Park. Work party  
starts at 10 a.m. Picnic and music at  
1 p.m., **682-4850.**

*Willow Creek work party*  
See listing May 11.

*Native Plant Nursery volunteer opportunity*  
1-4 p.m., **682-4850**

## June 17-21

*Cascade Soccer Camp*  
Ascot Park, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.,  
**(503) 579-4909**

## June 19

*Native Plant Nursery volunteer opportunity*  
9-11:30 a.m., **682-4850**

## June 22

*Native Plant Nursery volunteer opportunity*  
1-4 p.m., **682-4850**

*Solstice Ultimate Tournament*, Ascot Park,  
**682-5212**

## June 23

*New Horizons Band concert*  
Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., **344-0483**  
*Solstice Ultimate Tournament*  
Amazon Park, **682-5212**

## June 24-28

*On Your Mark... Fun for All*, free, drop-in,  
summer, recreational program in City  
parks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific  
program information and locations,  
call **682-5361.**

## June 30

*One More Time Marching Band concert*  
Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., **344-0483**

## July 1, 2, 3 & 5

*Nation Celebration, Fun for All*, free, drop-  
in, summer, recreational program in  
City parks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific  
program information and locations,  
call **682-5361.**

## July 4

*Eugene Symphonic Band concert*  
Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., **344-0483**

## July 5-7

*Girls 14 and under State Softball  
Championship*  
Shasta Ball Park, **682-5212**

## July 7

*Springfield Community Concert Band*  
Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., **344-0483**

## July 9

*West Coast Rhythm Kings concert*  
Amazon Park, 6:30 p.m.

## July 11

*The Jive Masters concert*  
Petersen Barn, 6:30 p.m.

## July 13

*Willow Creek work party*  
See listing May 11.

## July 8-12

*Mud Pies and Blue Skies, Fun for All*, free,  
drop-in, summer, recreational program  
in City parks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For  
specific program information and  
locations, call **682-5361.**

## July 14

*Emerald Renaissance Band*,  
Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., **344-0483**

## July 16

*Misty River concert*  
Westmoreland Park, 6:30 p.m.

## July 17

*Touch-a-Truck*  
Tour big trucks at Petersen Barn, free  
5-7:30 p.m.

## July 18

*Charles Dowd Quartet jazz concert*  
Campbell Center, 6:30 p.m.

## July 15-19

*Life at the Equator, Fun for All*, free, drop-in,  
summer, recreational program in City  
parks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific  
program information and locations,  
call **682-5361.**

## July 21

*Classical concert*  
Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., **344-0483**

## July 23

*Olem Alves Band funk and jazz concert*  
Amazon Park, 6:30 p.m.

## July 25

*Another Walk in the Park: Hip Hop Show*  
Churchill Youth Sports Park, 6:30 p.m.

## July 22-26

*Express Yourself, Fun for All*, free, drop-in,  
summer, recreational program in City  
parks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific  
program information and locations,  
call **682-5361.**

## July 28

*Oregon Tuba Ensemble*  
Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., **344-0483**

## July 29-August 2

*Under the Big Top, Fun for All*, free, drop-in,  
summer, recreational program in City  
parks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific  
program information and locations,  
call **682-5361.**

## July 30

*The Cheeseburgers*, a parrotheads concert  
Sheldon Center, 6:30 p.m.

### Public Works Day

Thursday, May 16, 2002

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1820 Roosevelt Blvd.

Eugene, Oregon

